

REMARKS

Claims 165-181 and 183-299 were pending. Applicants have added claims 300-315 in this Amendment.

New Claims 300-315

Independent claim 300 is similar in some aspects with claim 222. It is respectfully submitted that claim 300 and its dependent claims 301-315 are in condition for allowance.

Consider Anew All Pending Claims

In view of the Request for Continued Examiner (RCE) filed on April 13, 2007, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider all of the pending claims anew for patentability in view of the all the art of record.

Disclaimers

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer that may have narrowed the claim scope made in the present application, the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any such previous disclaimer, if any, and the prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should such a disclaimer, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

Claim Fee = \$200

Only an excess independent fee of \$200 is believed to be due. Applicants have previously paid for a total of 163 claims including 5 independent claims. In view of the amendment to the claims, 150 total claims (< highest number of claims previously paid) and 6 independent claims (1 more than highest number of claims previously paid) are now pending. Therefore, only an excess independent fee of \$200 is believed to be due.

U.S. Application No. 09/695,715, filed October 23, 2000
Attorney Docket No. 15258US03
Amendment dated April 18, 2007

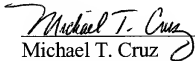
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that claims 165-181 and 183-315 are in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: April 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael T. Cruz", is written over a horizontal line.

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